

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Town of Walkersville, Maryland

www.walkersville-md.com

June 1, 2009

We are pleased to present the 2008 Annual Drinking Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The source of our drinking water is groundwater pumped from three wells located in a highly productive limestone aquifer. In a limestone aquifer, water is stored within large voids or cavities in the limestone. Springs and sinkholes are typically found within limestone aquifer areas. Sinkholes allow for surface water to mix readily with groundwater. Therefore, the state has categorized our water system as groundwater under the influence of surface water. Our level of treatment is equal to that of a system with a surface water source.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all the federal and state safe drinking water requirements. The following report is provided in compliance with federal regulations and will be provided annually. This report outlines the quality of our finished drinking water and what that quality means.

If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Robert F. DePaola, our Water Superintendent and Public Works Director at 301-845-4500. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Town Hall at 21 W. Frederick Street.

The Town of Walkersville routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2008. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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DEFINITIONS

In this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

ND (Non-Detects) –Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

ppm (Parts per million) or mgl (Milligrams per liter) – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

ppb (Parts per billion) or Micrograms per liter – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

ppt(Parts per trillion) or Nanograms per liter – one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

ppq (Parts per quadrillion) or Picograms per liter – one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

pCi/l (picocuries per liter)- A measure of radioactivity.

mrem/yr (Millirems per year) – measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

MFL (Million Fibers per Liter) – million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

AL -Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

TT (Treatment Technique)– A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) – The “Maximum Allowed” is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.


MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) – The “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)- A measure of the clarity of drinking water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.



TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants (monitored monthly)				
1. Total Coliform Bacteria	0	0	presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
2. Fecal coliform and <i>E. coli</i>	0	0	a routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	Human and animal fecal waste
3. Turbidity *	.041-1.00 (Note A)	0	.5 NTU	Soil runoff
Radioactive Contaminants (monitored every 4 years; next due-2011)				
4. Beta/photon emitters	3 pCi/l	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Inorganic Contaminants (monitored every 3 years; next due-2009)				
5. Copper	.19 ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
6. Fluoride	1.1 ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
7. Lead **	15 ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
8. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)*** (monitored quarterly)	0.1-1.7 ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
9. Arsenic ****	<5ppb	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits: runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides (monitoring not required)				
10. Lindane	<.1 ppb	200	200	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
Volatile Organic Contaminants (monitored every 3 years; next due-2009)				
11. TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	7.2ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination


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* Turbidity. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

** Lead. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. Lead testing was performed in a selected subdivision. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Walkersville is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

*** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. However, our treatment plant has a nitrate removal system. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

**** While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Note A – On January 27, 2008 the Town issued a Boil Water Advisory to all water customers of the Town of Walkersville. A manure spill upstream of the Town's water plant contaminated the groundwater. Notices were hand-delivered by volunteers to everyone affected. A temporary emergency water line was run from a Frederick County water supply so our customers' health was not compromised. A systematic flushing of the Town's water distribution system was completed and extensive bacteriological testing was performed before and after the flushing operations. On February 9, 2008 the Boil Water Advisory was lifted and Residential Plumbing Flushing Procedures were hand-delivered to all customers of the Town's water system.



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All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The presence of some contaminants in drinking water is unavoidable, but we make every effort to keep our water at or below the levels specified by law as being safe for consumption. Our Water Department staff consists of five licensed operators. They regularly attend training in an effort to keep up-to-date with the latest in water treatment techniques to provide you with the best quality water possible. The provision of quality water is an on-going effort for the Town of Walkersville and its staff, and one we are continuously trying to improve upon.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. Thank you for understanding.

We at the Town of Walkersville work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. To this end, we have adopted a Wellhead Protection Ordinance and a Sinkhole Ordinance that will protect the town's water supply. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

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Please call our office if you have questions.

Town Hall – 21 W. Frederick St
Phone – 301-845-4500

Town Shop – located behind Walkersville Volunteer Fire Co. Phone – 301-845-4811
After-hours Water Emergency – 301-631-8910 (pager)